

HB 503 -- PAPERLESS DOCUMENTS AND FORMS ACT

SPONSOR: McCaherty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 10 to 0. Rules Committee voted "Do Pass - Not Consent."

This bill establishes the Paperless Documents and Forms Act which authorizes the Department of Revenue to use technology to make filing certain forms and sending certain notifications more efficient. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the department to develop and implement, beginning no later than January 1, 2014, and by January 1, 2020, a method by which all documents and forms provided to the public by the department relating to taxes and fees are available in an electronic format online and are capable of electronic submission to the department except those that require a notary or authorization by a third party;
- (2) Allows the department director to use electronic notification of specified information when the taxpayer has consented to its use and provides an e-mail address in lieu of and in full satisfaction of any requirement to provide the notification by mail; and
- (3) Specifies that the creation of state-run tax electronic filing of individual income tax returns is not authorized.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill allows the Department of Revenue to make all of its forms available online in order to reduce or eliminate paper costs. The department has a lot of citizens who prefer communicating via electronic means. Currently, the statute requires the department to communicate via mail. This bill will allow a citizen to choose to communicate via mail or email and will result in a cost savings to the department. The department has a \$3.5 million mail budget, and even if only a small number of people opt for email communication, it would save the department money. Nothing is mandated. People will have to opt in; they will have to take an affirmative act in order to opt in to email.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCaherty; and Department of Revenue.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.